IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for transferring a packet on a network, ~~so as to control a transfer path of the packet~~, the path control device comprising:

a memory configured to store ~~path control information storage means for holding~~ a plurality of pieces of path control information ~~kept in a stored state, the plurality of pieces of path control information being~~ transferred from the plurality of transfer devices; ~~, and~~

a path controller configured to recognize ~~control means for recognizing~~ a path between a mobile terminal and [[the]] a correspondent terminal[[,]] based on [[a]] location information of each of the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal and ~~as a correspondent node as well as~~ the plurality of pieces of path control information, ~~so as to be able to determine a transfer device that serves as a switchover point of the path, on the occasion of a change of the path accompanied by an occasional migration of the mobile terminal~~; and

the path controller configured to predict a post-migration path extending from the correspondent terminal to a transfer device to which the mobile terminal will probably be connected after migration of the mobile terminal, and compare a pre-migration path extending from the correspondent terminal to a transfer device to which the mobile terminal has been kept connected before the migration and the predicted post-migration path to determine a transfer device serving as the switchover point.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The path control device according to claim 1 [[2]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the path controller is further configured to determine ~~control means determines~~ a transfer device closest to the mobile terminal in [[a]] common ~~part~~ between the pre-migration path and the post-migration path, as the transfer device serving as the switchover point.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A path control method applied to a path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for transferring a packet on a network so as to control a transfer path of the packet, the path control method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~a path control information storage step wherein~~

receiving and storing a plurality of pieces of path control information transferred from the plurality of transfer devices ~~are received and stored~~;

~~a path recognition step wherein~~ recognizing a pre-migration path between a mobile terminal and ~~the~~ a correspondent terminal ~~is recognized,~~ based on [[a]] location information of each of the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal ~~as a correspondent node~~ as well as the plurality of pieces of path control information;

~~a path prediction step wherein, when the mobile terminal migrates,~~ predicting, when the mobile station migrates, a post-migration path between the mobile terminal after the migration and the correspondent terminal ~~is predicted,~~ based on the location information of the mobile terminal after the migration, the location information of the correspondent terminal ~~as well as~~ and the plurality of pieces of path control information; and

~~a determination step wherein~~ determining a transfer device serving as a switchover point of the path ~~is determined~~ based on the pre-migration path and the post-migration path.

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Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The path control method according to claim 4, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u> ~~characterized in that, in the determination step,~~

~~a comparison between~~ <u>comparing</u> the pre-migration path and the post-migration path ~~is made, whereby~~ <u>to determine</u> the transfer device serving as the switchover point ~~is~~ ~~determined~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The path control method according to claim 5, <u>further</u> <u>comprising:</u>

~~characterized in that, in the determination step,~~ <u>determining</u> a transfer device closest to the mobile terminal in [[a]] common ~~part~~ between the pre-migration path and the post-migration path~~, is determined~~ as the transfer device serving as the switchover point.

Claim 7 (New): A path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for transferring a packet on a network, the path control device comprising:

an interface configured to receive a plurality of pieces of path control information transferred from the plurality of transfer devices;

a memory configured to store the plurality of pieces of path control information;

a path controller configured to recognize a pre-migration path between a mobile terminal and a correspondent terminal based on location information of the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal and the plurality of pieces of path control information;

the path controller configured to predict a post-migration path between the mobile terminal and the correspondent terminal based on the location information of the mobile terminal after the migration, the location information of the correspondent terminal and the plurality of pieces of path control information; and

the path controller configured to determine a transfer device serving as a switchover

point of the path based on the pre-migration path and the post-migration path.

Claim 8 (New): A path control device connected to a plurality of transfer devices for

transferring a packet on a network, the path control device comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of pieces of path control information transferred from

the plurality of transfer devices;

means for storing the plurality of pieces of path control information;

means for recognizing a pre-migration path between a mobile terminal and a

correspondent terminal based on location information of the mobile terminal and the

correspondent terminal and the plurality of pieces of path control information;

means for predicting a post-migration path between the mobile terminal and the

correspondent terminal based on the location information of the mobile terminal after the

migration, the location information of the correspondent terminal and the plurality of pieces

of path control information; and

means for determining a transfer device serving as a switchover point of the path

based on the pre-migration path and the post-migration path.